FACT SHEET

Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub Industry Needs Assessment

The Northern Territory Government is working to develop the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub to drive economic development, create jobs and increase prosperity in the region. Significant funding is identified in the medium term for the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub.

Community consultation has been undertaken to assist in developing the vision for this key infrastructure project. Katherine’s rich natural assets and strategic positioning to interstate and overseas markets present multiple opportunities for growth. Connected by rail, the town is at the crossroads of two major highways – Victoria Highway to Western Australia and Stuart Highway, linking Darwin and South East Asia to our southern states.

Consultation

The Northern Territory Government engaged Deloitte to consult with industry and business to identify local and regional needs to develop a strategic masterplan. Deloitte consulted with more than 100 industry, business and local stakeholders from Darwin, Katherine and the greater region to develop the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Industry Needs Assessment.

Feedback

Several industries in the Katherine region said they would benefit from a logistics and agribusiness hub as potential tenants or users of the facility.

General feedback stated a hub would:

- Boost the local economy by generating short term construction jobs and long term industry employment
- Help establish new industries and businesses
- Support future agribusiness and mining in the region
- Improve existing transport linkages between Katherine and Darwin, including the port and airport.

Stakeholders rated the importance of their industry needs for the hub as either high (essential), medium (relatively important) and low (nice to have). The industry requirements were mapped across three potential stages according to priority, industry readiness, potential issues and dependency on other infrastructure.
**Stage 1 industry requirements (immediate to 5 years)**

- Fuel depot
  - General use staging area
  - Loading zones/bays
  - Secure, concrete parking and lay down area for transport vehicles – medium and long term
- Packing/distribution
  - Storage areas and yards, including under cover
  - Vehicle maintenance and repairs – light and heavy vehicles
- Fruit processing
  - Communications tower/ improved network coverage
  - Design and provide services to enable efficient and effective intermodal transfers
- Wash down bays
  - Fruit juicing facility
  - Sufficient space for loading/off loading
  - Rest, food, washing facilities for truck drivers

**Stage 2 industry requirements (within 5 to 10 years)**

- Waste management and waste water facilities
- Bush foods hub
- Rail maintenance facility
- Cold storage/ refrigerated container park
- Fertiliser plant/ manufacturing
- Hay/pellet processing
- Nursery/green houses
- Storage yard for sand
- Ancillary office space
- Multi species abattoir/ processing facility
- Peanut shelling plant
- Feed lots
- Bottling plant
- Bio-char production facility
- Sandalwood oil distillery
- Cotton gin
- Gas distribution facility
- 24 hour café/restaurant
- Landfill for hub and Katherine region

**Stage 3 industry requirements (10 to 30 years)**

- Grain silos
- Seed cleaning
- Large function centre
- Biofuel processing
- Processing facilities for rice/grain/fruit
- Lay down and equipment storage for mining/forestry timber
- Education/training centre

**Location**

Based on the identified industry needs, Deloitte has estimated the potential hub could require about 150 hectares of land.

The proposed site for the hub is near the intersection of the Katherine railway terminal, Victoria Highway and proposed future heavy vehicle alternate route, within the Manbulloo pastoral lease.

This strategically located site has room for the hub to grow and evolve with the industries it aims to support.

**Next Steps**

The Northern Territory Government will investigate the land, power, water and sewerage infrastructure needs for the proposed hub and other supporting infrastructure requirements based on feedback, to understand costs and delivery options.

In consultation with industry, the community, Consolidated Pastoral Company and native title holders, the government will continue to develop the Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub.

For more information please visit www.dipl.nt.gov.au/klah